

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/593,922

Examiner

Michael S. A. Delgado

Applicant(s)

JACOBS, ROBERT A.

Art Unit

2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/14/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2 and 4-17 hereafter 1-16.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 13 June 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

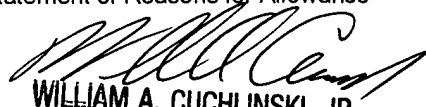
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


WILLIAM A. CUCHLINSKI, JR.
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2400

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Julie Reed on February 16, 2005. The application has been amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method to change audio sources broadcast over a network, the method comprising:

separately buffering multiple audio streams within one device, wherein ~~the~~ each audio streams ~~are~~ is transmitted across the network from ~~a multiple~~, different audio sources having different content than other of the audio streams ~~so as to reduce delay when audio sources are changed~~ and the audio streams are selected for buffering based upon user input; and

routing each of the multiple audio streams to a stream receiver in the device to maintain connection with the audio sources from which the streams came.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, the method further comprising selecting one of the multiple audio streams using a stream selector in the device.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~3~~ 1, the method further comprising delivering the selected one of the multiple audio streams as audio output signals to a user.

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5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein buffering of the multiple audio streams is accomplished by one of the group comprised of: a computer having browsing software, and an Internet radio receiver.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~selecting one of the multiple audio sources is accomplished with one of the group comprised of: predefined user inputs, and a present user input~~ the user input is one of either a present user input or user preferences.

7. (currently amended) An Internet radio receiver operable to switch between multiple audio sources and deliver radio receiver output to a user, the receiver comprising:

a stream manager operable to:

receive and buffer multiple audio streams each from a different ~~multiple~~ Internet radio sources within one device, wherein streams are selected for buffering based upon user inputs; ~~and to~~

select one of the multiple Internet radio sources; and

a stream receiver operable to receive each of the multiple audio streams and to maintain connection with the audio sources from which the streams came.

8. (previously presented) The receiver of claim 7 wherein the receiver further comprises a connector operable to communicate with the multiple Internet radio sources.

9. (original) The receiver of claim 8, wherein the connector is one of a group comprised of: a modem cable, a wireless receiver, a power line, and a network cable.

10. (previously presented) The receiver of claim 9 wherein the receiver further comprises an interface between the connector and the stream manager.

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11. (original) The receiver of claim 10, wherein the interface is one of a group comprised of: a modem, a network interface card, a power line data interface and a wireless modem.

12. (original) The receiver of claim 7 further comprising at least one speaker operable to present the one of the multiple audio sources to a user as audio output signals.

13. (original) The receiver of claim 7 further comprising a display operable to display an identifier of a selected one of the multiple audio sources.

14. (previously presented) The receiver of claim 7 wherein the ~~stream manager~~ stream receiver further comprises:

multiple stream receivers in one device each operable to receive one of the multiple audio streams;

corresponding stream buffers in the device each operable to receive data from one of the multiple stream receivers;

a stream selector operable to select one of the multiple audio sources as output to a user.

15. (currently amended) An article comprising:

a storage medium, the storage medium having stored thereon instructions, that, when executed by a computing device, result in:

reception of multiple audio streams ~~from each from a multiple~~, different audio sources; ~~using a stream receiver in a device for the multiple different audio sources~~

routing each of the multiple audio streams to a stream receiver in the device to maintain connection with the audio sources from which the streams came;

buffering of the multiple audio streams within one device received from the stream receivers based upon user inputs; and

selection of one of the multiple audio sources and to produce audio output signals from the device.

16. (previously presented) The article of claim 15 wherein said computing device comprises a personal computer.

17. (previously presented) The article of claim 15 wherein said computing device comprises an Internet radio receiver having a processor.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-2 and 4-17 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Prior art failed to teach the separately buffering of multiple audio streams having different content coming from different audio sources while maintaining connection with audio sources.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael S. A. Delgado whose telephone number is (571) 272-3926. The examiner can normally be reached on 7.30 AM - 5.30PM.

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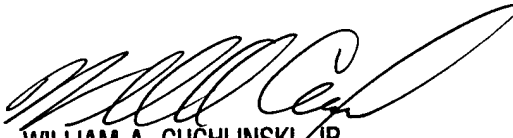
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, WILLIAM A CUCHLINSKI JR can be reached on (571) 272-3925

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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